



# “Take a Break From the Exhaust”

## An alternative commute initiative

### What is Take a Break from the Exhaust (TABFTE)?

An interactive alternative commute program in which Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) – Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) employees are asked to take voluntary actions to help reduce ground-level ozone forming air pollution.

Some examples of these actions are:

- carpooling to work
- staying in for lunch on ozone action days
- working an alternate work schedule
- telecommuting
- use of mass transit
- bicycling
- walking

### Who can / is participating in TABFTE?

Currently DHEC – BAQ are the only participants. Next year we are hoping to expand to other areas within DHEC and possibly to several interested industries and local governments.

### When is the TABFTE season?

At this time the TABFTE season coincides with the Ozone Forecast season. It begins on May 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### How do we know that the TABFTE works?

The program uses a competitive model in which points are assigned/ awarded for each action that is done to minimize air pollution. A computer program is used by staff to report their actions and to record their daily points.

Results from the project have been encouraging. Instances of carpooling have increased 34% from 2002 to 2003, and the number of times employees have bicycled to work has also increased 10%. Additionally, there are higher numbers of employees staying in for lunch and walking to lunch during Ozone Action Days. Furthermore, for Bureau staff, it is estimated that NO<sub>x</sub> reductions from vehicles amounted to 12.77%.

**For more information about DHEC’s TABFTE alternative commute program please contact Jack Porter 803/898-3829, Sonya Younger 803/898-4462, or Ami Babic 803/898-3824.**